

FRANCIS MARY DE CHAILLONNEL,

BY THE GRACE OF GOD, AND THE FAVOUR OF THE HOLY APOSTOLIC SEE, BISHOP OF TORONTO.

To all our well-beloved Brethren and Children in God, the Clergy, Secular and Regular, and Laity of our Diocese, Grace and Peace in the Lord.

Your first Bishop, Dearly Beloved Brethren, gave his life for his flock; and his memory will ever be in benediction amongst those whom he edified by his virtues, instructed by his example, and ennobled by his death. It was the wish of the Venerable Bishops of Canada to comfort you for his loss by obtaining as his Successor, an Ecclesiastic, a glorious child of England,—a light of doctrine and virtue. To their endeavours We united Our prayers, and We besought others to pray that Our loving Lord would be pleased to raise to the See of Toronto this zealous Missionary, who would have brought to your memory the memorable actions of the Apostles of Canada. But the humility which moved Father Larkin to decline another See, has also prevented him from accepting an office for which he would have been so admirably qualified.

We supposed, Beloved Brethren, that a Bishop had been long ago provided for you, when We received on the 18th of April last Apostolic Letters, notifying Our appointment to the vacant See of Toronto, and earnestly urging Us, by Our acceptance of it, to put an end to your long anxiety. Within eight days from that date We reached Rome, and We humbly represented to the Holy Father that We were not qualified to undertake an Office which had alarmed one so much more able to perform its duties and bear its responsibilities. His Holiness answered Us that the more perfect course for Us was to submit; and We bowed Our head submissively before Him through whom St. Peter speaketh. The more to encourage Us, and at the same time in order to show a proof of His fatherly affection towards you, Beloved Brethren, His Holiness has graciously condescended himself to bestow upon Us the Episcopal Consecration, and to impose His Sacred hands upon Us, anointing Us with the Chrism of Salvation. If Our Holy Father has hereby acquired a title to your gratitude, Dearly Beloved Brethren, He has imposed also upon Us the duty of imitating in Our conduct the ardent charity which unites Him to you.

It will be Our constant prayer that deeds, rather than words, however sincere, may attest the warmth of Our charity in your regard; and as a proof, We have, amongst other things, followed the paternal advice of His Holiness in seeking out zealous Labourers of the Lord to accompany Us amongst you; and We trust that the pious Missionary may be one day granted to Us, whose humility in declining to govern you, will add to the power of his well known eloquence.

We intend, Beloved Brethren, to remain a few days longer in the Eternal City, that We may be strengthened amidst the monuments of its Martyrs, and encouraged by the memorial of the Saints whose holy relics render it glorious above all Cities.

We wish to pray for you, Dearly Beloved Brethren, upon the threshold of the great Apostles, St. Peter and St. Paul, whose preaching and martyrdom have shed such lustre upon Rome, at the same time seeking council and light from the Great Pontiff who has but lately shared in the sufferings as well as in the glory of the Prince of the Apostles, and whose name is now so devoutly pronounced by the countless thousands committed to His faithful keeping.

Your munificence, Dearly Beloved Brethren, has been conspicuous; and We hope to convey to some who have made great sacrifices, the expression of the approbation of His Holiness: but as your means are limited, We intend, before We leave Europe, to visit France, which you love for the sacrifices made by her children in defence of the Apostolic See; and when We represent to Our Brethren in that country the great necessities of Our Church, We are confident that they will display towards Us both charity and generosity. Meanwhile We long to be with you, and We hope you will pray that We may speedily be united to those from whom death alone shall ever separate Us. Pray that We may be united in heart and will, and that We may all be enabled to work faithfully and earnestly for the love and glory of Our Lord, and the expansion of His Holy Church. Our weakness is great and Our deficiencies are many; but relying on Our obedience to the Vicar of Christ, We are enabled to say with the great Apostle, "*Cum infirmor tunc potens sum.*"

With what effusion of heart shall We meet once more those revered Ecclesiastics who listened to Our words with so much indulgence six years ago, and whose piety during Our Retreat has ever remained in Our Memory.

With tears shall We remember how the venerable Pastor, whose place We are about to occupy so unworthily, was at Our last meeting in danger of death; and with what affection shall We unite in praying for him in that noble Church which will prove to those yet unborn the greatness of his zeal and the fulness of his charity! A holy Priest is reposing near him, whose meek and gentle virtues endeared him to Our people, and were a model to his fellow labourers:—for him likewise We will pray.

As We recall to mind, Dearly Beloved Brethren, even at this distance of time and place, the many good deeds

which your first Bishop performed amongst you, We feel that Our path is all traced; and We trust that you will often ask Our Blessed Mother the Holy Virgin Mary, whom he loved and honoured so fervently, that by Her powerful intercession We may be enabled to complete what he so happily and so boldly undertook. Recommend Us likewise to the favour of the Glorious Archangel St. Michael, Prince of the Heavenly Hosts, who, protector of old of the Synagogue, and defender now of the Church of Christ, has been chosen as the spectral Patron of the Diocese of Toronto.

Finally, Dearly Beloved Brethren, let us all join in prayers for the speedy return of our separated Brethren, that they may be brought to the enjoyment of those spiritual blessings which we possess in the sacred bosom of the Holy Catholic Church.

Imitating the Venerable Bishops of Canada, We shall hasten to pay Our respects to the Representative of Her Majesty, and to declare to him how fully We participate in their feelings of loyalty, in their love of peace and order, and in their desire to preach, by word and example, obedience to the Government and the laws of the Country.

More We cannot say now, Beloved Brethren; but as an earnest of Our love to Our Clergy and Flock, We pray that the blessing of the Almighty may descend upon you and dwell with you for ever.

"The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Charity of God, and the Communication of the Holy Ghost, be with you all."

This Letter will be read in all the Churches and Chapels on the first Sunday after its reception; and to obtain the Divine Blessing for Us, each of the Clergy will read in the Mass, on all days permitted, the Collect &c. of the Votive Mass of the Holy Ghost; and moreover, on Sundays and Holidays, in every Church and Chapel where Mass is said, they will recite three times with the Faithful, the *Pater, Ave, and Gloria Patri*.

Given at the Hotel de la Minerve, Rome, the 14th day of May, 1850.

† FRANCIS MARY,

El. Bishop of Toronto.

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